

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1811, December 5, 1953

## WHERE PLANES LAND AT THE FRONT DOOR

Making life easier in the wilds of Queensland

From an Australian Correspondent

EVERY Thursday morning as the sun rises above the blue Coral Sea a Douglas DC-3 aircraft of the Australian National Airways takes off from the town of Cairns on the North Queensland coast and heads west to Normanton, once a thriving community, today a ghost-town. From there the plane flies north to the vast cattle stations bordering the mangrove-swamp-fringed Gulf of Carpentaria.

Like the pedal radio and the flying doctor service, the "Gulf run" is making life more pleasant in this isolated part of Northern Queensland.

Outwardly this DC-3 is identical with many aircraft plying between capital cities, but inside several seats have been removed to make room for freight.

### REGULAR SERVICE

The aircraft lands at the stations, frequently at the homesteads' front door, picking up and setting down passengers and delivering anything from mail to a refrigerator or a radiogram. Housewives, station hands, and natives take it as part of their routine.

The plane flies over tree-studded flat country, where the countless rivers, creeks, and their tributaries are empty in the dry season and flood their low banks into water-logged country in the wet season.

On some days conditions are pleasant and flying is a pleasure; more frequently it is dusty, flying is bumpy, and the air is filled with the treacherous kite-hawks. The humidity is high from mid-November until Easter and the aircraft is always hot on the ground.

### NINE CALLS

Setting off from Normanton in the mid-morning, the aircraft flies as far north as the Church of England's Mitchell River Mission, which supplies most of the native labour to the stations. It is rarely aloft for more than 20 minutes, as it must land at nine homesteads, load and unload, and return to Normanton before nightfall.

All the stations have well-constructed airstrips, hewn from virgin bush by the natives under the supervision of the Department of Civil Aviation.

And within a few hundred yards of each is the tropical station homestead surrounded by trees, cattle sheds, and yards housing the cattlemen and their families, hard-working people who prefer to cast away the pleasures of modern civilisation for the loneliness of the north.

Typical of the stations is Sir

William Angliss's Van Rook, a huge 3000-square-mile property.

Its strip and homestead is 86 miles north-east of Normanton. Surrounded by tall, majestic mango trees (one is 65 feet high) and a lovely flower and vegetable garden, it is an oasis in the wilderness from the air.

And its hospitality on the ground is as friendly as the station hands' cheery greeting to the circling aircraft.

When the brief formalities of flight are completed there is always the traditional drink of the out-back, hot, strong tea, freshly cooked cakes and scones, a large juicy water melon—and deck chairs waiting for the crews and passengers in the shade of the mangoes.

### WARM HOSPITALITY

For the Gulf country is noted for its hospitality. During a recent trip the aircraft burst a tyre landing at Miranda, another equally large station.

It was forced to remain overnight, but the station owner and his wife were not perturbed.

They housed the crew and the seven passengers, served a choice roast for the evening meal and fillet steak an hour before the dawn take-off the next morning.

Many of the A.N.A.'s senior skippers now flying the four-engined Skymasters on the trunk routes "served their time" on the Gulf run.

### HAPPY DAYS

They still look back on those days as among their happiest, when they learned there was more in flying than "revving" up engines and flying over the countryside.

Skipper of the aircraft during my recent trip to the cattle stations was Captain A. M. Bonney, a fair-haired 29-year-old airman who completed his 100th Gulf run that day.

Bonney, like most of Australia's civil pilots, learned to fly with the wartime R.A.A.F. He flew thousands of miles as a second pilot with the American courier service from Australia to the South-west Pacific bases, an ex-



perience which he finds of inestimable value today.

He missed the care-free life of the fighter pilot or the hazardous flights of the bomber crews, but he had more than his share of thrills.

One of the first Australian transport airmen to carry supplies by night over the Owen Stanley Ranges in New Guinea, he frequently landed in an unarmed Dakota less than a mile from the Japanese lines—his only defence a revolver.

To Bonney, his first officer, and the crews who relieve him—he only flies the Gulf run every fortnight—it is country with a fascinating appeal. It has become as much a part of their lives as the aircraft they fly.

The Gulf run is a break for them from the monotony of civil flying and the rush of the cities, a chance to rest and refresh the mind by a little hard physical work, for the crews that fly this lonely route are more than skilled airmen.

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## Head of a hero

Ophelia Gordon-Bell with her sculpture of Everest-conqueror Sir Edmund Hillary which is now on view in an exhibition at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington.

See page 7

## FOX AS PET

A Moscow resident is reported to have a red fox as a pet. Caught as a cub three years ago it now walks contentedly on its lead along the Moscow streets, and plays with the local cats.

It likes hot, strong tea and cakes, and is said to enjoy wearing spectacles indoors, like the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood.

## GAME BIRD

Eight-year-old Derek Lunt of Stafford has taught his six-month-old pet budgerigar, Peter, to hold a cricket bat only an inch long, and also to kick and head a tiny football.

## THE LIONS JUST DROPPED IN

Finding their usual water-holes dried up during a drought in Tanganyika, three lions set out to quench their thirsts in a nearby town.

They visited the district commissioner's office at Kilosa without success, and then an office. Next they tried the gymkhana club, and there they found what they were looking for—in the children's paddling pool!

They drank their fill and then returned to the bush.

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## 2 BERMUDA CONFERENCE

C.N. Diplomatic Correspondent

BERMUDA has an international role this weekend as the meeting-place of the leading statesmen of Britain, the United States, and France. The heads of State and Foreign Ministers of these three Powers are due there for a conference.

The wider purpose of the meetings is to ensure common agreement on plans for maintaining peace. Their background is the failure so far to find a basis of understanding and mutual trust between the Western democracies and Soviet Russia.

This failure was emphasised last month when the Russians avoided a direct reply to Western invitations for a Four-Power meeting. They suggested, instead, that China should be invited to a conference—but they did not say when.

### COMMON PROBLEMS

The immediate reason for the Bermuda Conference is undoubtedly this long and bitter note from the Soviets which did much to dispel Western hopes that the Russians might be willing to talk over common problems, notably the future of Germany and Austria.

These two countries will be outstanding subjects at Bermuda, together with the progress of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the European Defence Community.

At the same time the six statesmen are certain to discuss the international difficulties in the Far East and the Middle East.

### GENERAL AGREEMENT

In most of these matters the Western Powers are agreed in principle.

Sir Winston Churchill and Mr. Anthony Eden have tried hard for a long time to find means by which Russia and the West could solve their common problems and live peaceably.

Nor will Sir Winston abandon too easily his hope, expressed earlier this year, of an eventual pact between the Soviets and the West which would guarantee

Russia freedom from aggression. So far, however, Russia has responded in the coldest way to these overtures.

President Eisenhower and Mr. John Foster Dulles, the United States' Secretary of State, have shown they are sceptical of the chances of getting much immediate co-operation from Russia.

It is pointed out that Soviet foreign policy has not softened to any really noticeable degree, despite hopes aroused when Mr. Malenkov succeeded Mr. Stalin.

Mr. Dulles suggested the other day that the Russian rulers had retreated into a "diplomatic defensive." At the same time he agreed that the Western Allies should be ready to talk with Russia about any vital points of disagreement.

That will be the view which the United States will undoubtedly put forward in Bermuda.

### FRENCH VIEWPOINT

What of the French representatives, Premier Joseph Laniel and M. Georges Bidault, the Foreign Minister?

M. Laniel, a business man with a distinguished record as a brave soldier, will go to the conference with the burden of France's economic problems on his shoulders.

M. Bidault's particular study and most difficult problem is the French attitude to the European Defence Community, which is still rousing controversy in France. This situation, too, is sure to be discussed at Bermuda in the light of European security needs.

What all the Western nations hope is that the friendly informal discussions due to begin this weekend will eventually lead to a conference which will promote an amicable understanding with the Eastern Powers.

## WHERE PLANES LAND AT THE FRONT DOOR

Continued from page 1

They are carriers of heavy stores, messengers for the outback housewife, and agents for the company. Rarely is their cargo less than 3000 lbs., and they must load and unload it themselves.

The passengers they carry are as varied as the freight they stow behind them—maybe a wealthy meat king travelling incognito to make a surprise inspection of his station, a mother bringing her child home from specialised treatment in the south, or a sportsman flying to the gulf to hunt crocodiles.

At least half the passengers are natives in their "drover blue" shirts flying from their mission to the stations or returning.

Some neatly print their names, Adrian, Robin, John, or the more frequent Jimmy, along the line marked "signature of passenger" on their ticket. Others give their finger-print.

Normanton is the second home of the Gulf run crews. Most of

them live with their families at Cairns.

In the late 1880's Normanton was an important port, handling supplies to the stations now served by the aircraft. Today it is a derelict town.

The Queensland Government diverted a projected railway line linking it with Cloncurry and Townsville and the then boom gold town of Croydon, 100 miles away.

When the goldfield petered out, the Normanton-Croydon link was of little use and the more important stretch to Cloncurry was never laid. But still the rail service continues between these two towns of yesterday with a one man station master, ticket checker and general officer in charge running it.

The Gulf run crews like Normanton, and consider themselves citizens of this historic town. Without them and their Gulf run several hundred Australians would still be living a very lonely life.



By the C.N. Press Gallery Correspondent

VISCOUNT SAMUEL, 83-year-old Liberal leader in the Lords, believes the "blind spot" in most people's knowledge is the period some ten or twenty years before their own birth.

"You will have read about that queer fish, the coelacanth, believed to have belonged to a type thought extinct for millions of years," he said the other day. "Well, I am your political coelacanth, and you may look at me with surprise and awe and think:

"Here is a man who actually knew Mr. Gladstone—Mr. Gladstone who was born in 1809 and who was a member of the first Parliament elected after the great Reform Bill of 1832."

FURTHER to our note last week on atomic energy: on January 1 the Lord President of the Council (the Marquess of Salisbury) will take over responsibility for atomic energy in this country.

In the Commons questions on the military aspects of this new force will be answered by the Minister of Supply, Mr. Duncan Sandys. Questions about the industrial uses of atomic energy will be answered by the Minister of Works, Sir David Eccles.

This, we may be sure, is the start of a great new influence in the lives of M.P.s as well as in our own day-to-day affairs. There will be a great rush to "brush up" parliamentary knowledge of technical processes.

ROUGHLY, our M.P.s receive an average of about 5000 letters a day, especially when some highly controversial issue arises. But how many go out from them to us?

The latest figure recorded concerns a week last June, when 16,672 letters bearing postage stamps were posted in the various letter-boxes at the Palace of Westminster. In the same week 10,610 official letters went out.

Over a six-week period in the Spring of 1946 the average weekly post was made up of 13,748 letters with postage stamps and 10,840 of the other kind.

So there has been quite an increase in the amount of postage our M.P.s have to pay. It is a considerable item of their £1000 a year salaries, which most reasoning people are coming to think are much too low for the heavy responsibilities they bear.

QUOTES: The hon. gentleman will remember the case which happened between the wars which showed some of the dangers of local authorities going blithely into the City and sometimes coming out without their shirts.—Mr. J. E. MacColl, M.P. for Widnes.

The application of logic and reason produce a reductio ad absurdum on any subject, particularly in connection with those problems dealing with human beings.—Mr. Leslie Hale, M.P. for West Oldham.

## News from Everywhere

### SQUATTERS

Three starling eggs fell out of a hole in a telephone pole cut down at Chewton Mendip, Somerset. Starlings had taken over a woodpecker's home.

The Pakistan Government have asked the Cleveland Bay Horse Society of Great Britain for 18 mares to establish the breed in Pakistan.

A Queen Mary Memorial Chapel is to be built at Queen Mary's Hospital in the East End of London.

Mme. Jacqueline Auriol has been awarded the Harmon International Trophy by President Eisenhower in recognition of her women's jet speed record.

### KEEP IT DARK

The British Medical Journal suggests that milk bottles be made of dark glass to keep out sunlight, which spoils the vitamins.

Nine-year-old Pauline Brown of Norwich, although unable to swim, saved her sister from drowning in the River Wensum. She has been awarded the Girl Guides' Gilt Cross.

A stone carving of a monk's head, thought to be about 500 years old, has been dug up at Beauchief Abbey, near Sheffield.

A British firm has won a contract to supply the United States with £1,000,000 worth of fuel pipeline.

### COATS OFF

Finding that it would cost £800 to paint the inside walls of St. George's Church, Kendal, the vicar and some parishioners decided to do the work themselves—at a cost of £100.

Towards the end of this exceptionally mild November a Cheshire reader counted no fewer than 79 different kinds of flowers (including buttercups) in bloom within half a mile of her home.

A training base for boys wishing to learn the rudiments of seamanship is to be established on the River Lea at Broxbourne, Herts.

### JOLLY GOOD IDEA

America is to hold a National Smile Week and a National Laugh Week.

The Bayano, a 7000-ton banana ship, has been adopted by the children of Priory Heath Junior School, Ipswich.

America's 50-millionth telephone has been installed in President Eisenhower's White House office.

### CONGO COACH

A regular coach service between Brussels and the Belgian Congo is to begin next year. Taking 37 days, it will pass through France, Spain, Morocco, the Sahara, French West Africa, and Nigeria.

Dennis Lamb, 15, of Sheffield, beat 36 girls in a cake-making contest.

Nineteen and threepence for a super pen, a genuine Waterman's 501 with a 14-carat gold nib. Fills with one flick. Writes with instant flow. In ruby, blue, grey or jet.

Save up—or would they give you it for Christmas?

**Waterman's**  
501

19/3



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## PROSPECTING BY PLANE

The erratic behaviour of the compass in a Canadian aircraft has led to the discovery of a rich iron ore field in north-east Quebec.

Two airmen on a commercial flight noticed that their compass began playing tricks as they were passing over a ridge on the shores of the St. Lawrence. They flew over the ridge several times and were able to pinpoint the area causing the compass pointers to flutter.

They informed a geologist in Montreal who confirmed that the area contained rich deposits of iron ore.

## BRUNO OF BOND SPRINGS

A great Central Australian character, an Aborigine named Bruno, has died quietly in his sleep at the age of 100.

Bruno was among Aborigines recently awarded the £40 Coronation grant for loyal and devoted service to Australia. He was also honoured for faithful service to the early Central Australian pioneers.

Born at what is now Bond Springs, Bruno was always a good influence among the younger tribesmen.

## LIGHT DINGHY

A newcomer to the world of small boats is a wooden dinghy which is being manufactured by a Kirbymoorside glider-making firm. Weighing only 144 lbs., it can easily be carried on the roof of a small car. It can be powered either by outboard motor, sails, or oars, and will accommodate two adults and two children.

Sea Scouts of Ampleforth College have given the craft a thorough testing with sail and oars on Gilling Lake.

## TOO BIG FOR HIS BUNK

The trawler Hazel put back into Fleetwood after being at sea for three days because a member of the crew was too big for his bunk.

He is six feet three and weighs over 19 stone, and although a carpenter had altered the bunk he was still unable to sleep in it.

So at last, as a man cannot work without proper rest, the skipper put back into port.

## Students decorate church



Students of the Wimbledon School of Art have been adorning a local church. Wendy Besley is here seen putting the finishing touches to her ten-months' work on the font.

## OLD FAITHFUL RETIRES

Locomotive No. 58343 has been retired after 72 years of hauling freight trains.

This grand old engine was the last of five hundred 0-6-0 type designed by Mr. F. W. Webb and built in the years between 1873 and 1892.

They had only two cylinders of 17-inch diameter, and small wheels with a diameter of slightly less than 4 feet 6 inches, but these locomotives were always dependable, and not so temperamental as some of their modern counterparts.

Originally numbered 2405, the nameless but hard-working No. 58343 was in its time also numbered 8227 and then 28227. It will now be stripped of any useful parts, so that some relics of it will go clanking on for a few more years on another locomotive.

## PROSPERITY FROM THE DESERT

Vast deposits of tin which may be ten times as great as Malaya's are to be worked in Australia's undeveloped North-West.

Here the population, apart from the small town of Marble Bar, is about one person to 90 square miles of sheep and cattle land.

The rich tin deposits, found in river and creek beds for 100 miles, will bring new people, new towns, and new prosperity to this desert land.

## CHANNEL ISLETS ARE BRITISH

A long argument between Britain and France about the ownership of some Channel islets has been settled by The Hague International Court. Britain is to retain them, but French fishermen will still be able to operate in some of their waters.

These rocks and tiny islands are the Minquiers and Ecrehous groups. The largest of the Ecrehous, Maitre Ile, is only 300 yards long and 150 wide, and the largest of the Minquiers, Maitresse Ile, is 200 yards by 50.

At The Hague the French and British engaged in a friendly historical controversy about these rocks. The French Government claimed that after the King of France had conquered Normandy in 1204 he had obtained possession of the Minquiers and the Ecrehous.

The Court based its decision in favour of Britain on the fact that for a long time Jersey has had exercised legal authority over both groups.

## HER MAJESTY'S MUSICIAN

The new Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Arthur Bliss, is admirably suited to his honourable office. He likes being asked to write for special occasions, and he provided some of the best music for the Coronation. He has also written fine ballet and film music.

Sir Arthur is 62. After taking a degree in music at Cambridge he fought in the First World War with the Grenadier Guards, and was wounded and mentioned in dispatches. A few years ago he was the B.B.C.'s Director of Music.

## NEVER TOO LATE

The oldest pupil in the world is believed to be 93-year-old Stillsano Rocco, a peasant of Calabria, Italy's "toe." He recently passed a public examination in reading and writing.

About a year ago he suddenly took it into his head that it was time he learned to read and write. He astonished his youthful teacher by his progress.

The examiner was also surprised when the candidate wrote of his personal recollections of the burial of Garibaldi, which he attended as a young man of 22.

## NEWSPAPER CENTURY

The Ilkeston Pioneer has just celebrated its centenary.

This popular Derbyshire weekly began its career in 1853 as a monthly paper of eight pages, its aim being to provide local and general news with "literary and scientific entertainment and instruction."

Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, was the subject of its first book review.

## PIGS CAN FLY

About 1000 Yorkshire Large White pigs are being flown to Yugoslavia. They have been purchased by the Yugoslav Government to improve the native breed. The airlift will cover a period of three months.



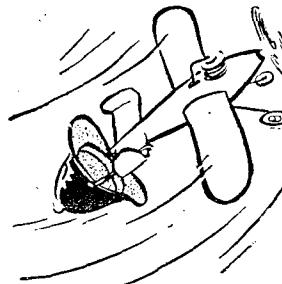
"Dad's in ...



trouble again!



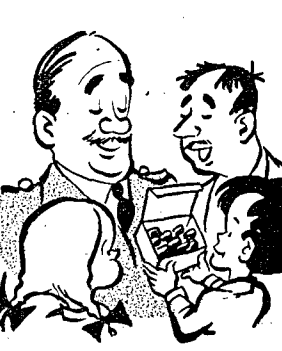
Let's ...



rescue ...

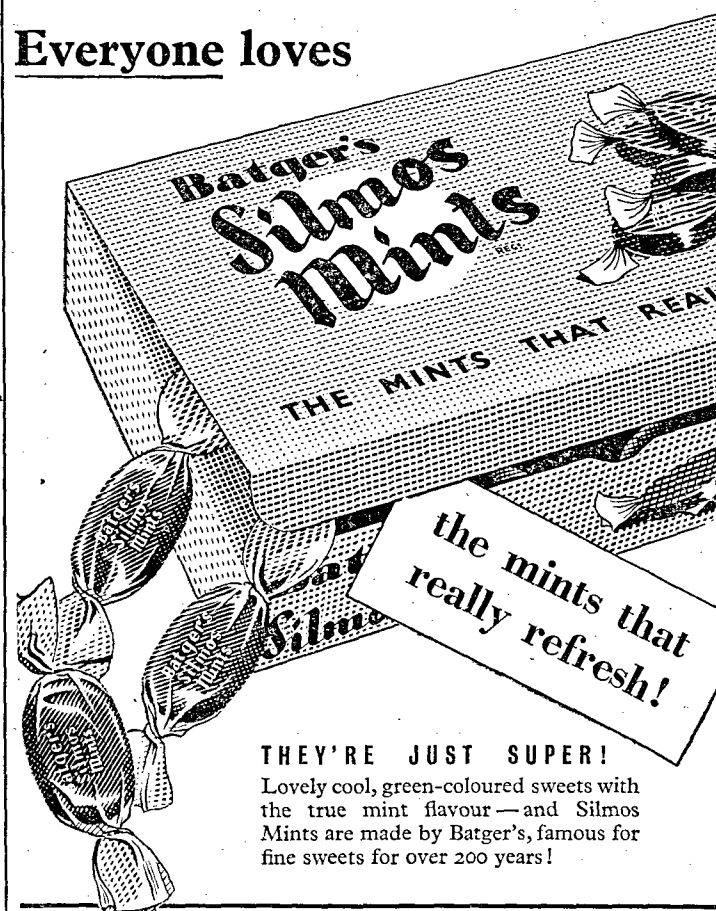


him with ...



SILMOS MINTS!"

## Everyone loves



They're BATGER'S — sweets ahead of the rest!



## Elephants off duty

Zoo elephants are now resting from their summer duties of giving rides to visitors. Our pictures show Rosie lending a helping trunk to move a seat at Bristol Zoo, and Dunbo of London Zoo taking a footbath.







It is part of the serious and strenuous business of growing up. It takes energy. And it takes Haliborange to provide adequate quantities of vitamins A, C and D which children need. Start the family on delicious Haliborange now and keep them all happy, healthy and strong.

**Haliborange**

KEEPS THE FAMILY FLOURISHING

In bottles 3/6 from Chemists only.

The nicest way of taking Halibut Oil

MADE BY ALLEN & HANBURYS LTD.

No one ever says 'No' to Mackintosh's -or mistletoe!

JOHN MACKINTOSH & SONS LIMITED, HALIFAX

## On the Royal Route THROUGH THE PANAMA

The Gothic, with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on board, passed through the Panama Canal at the beginning of this week, thus shortening her voyage to New Zealand by more than 3000 miles, as against the passage round Cape Horn or through the dangerous Strait of Magellan.

This 50-mile waterway through the Isthmus of Panama is of immense strategic and mercantile importance.

The Isthmus was first crossed by Balboa in 1513, and he later contrived to have small brigantines manhandled in pieces across to the Pacific. The possibility of a canal was seen almost at once, but for centuries treasures were carried by the old "Road of Gold" from Pacific to Atlantic, and there loaded into Spanish galleons.

### FRENCH PIONEERS

The first canal was begun last century. The French, fresh from their triumphs at Suez, where they had cut their 100-mile canal through the sand by 1869, began operations at Panama in 1876.

Engineering difficulties were formidable, but the mosquitoes even more so. Almost one in five workers died annually from yellow fever or malaria, and in 1889 the French attempt was virtually abandoned.

In 1904 the United States Government took over. They bought a ten-mile-wide strip in perpetuity, and, first tackling the mosquito and afterwards the engineering problems, they drove their canal through in ten years.

### SIX LOCKS

From the Caribbean, ships enter the Panama at Cristobal, and normally it takes them about eight hours (three in locks) to pass through.

There are six twin sets of locks, each 1000 feet long and 45 feet deep. Water is not pumped into the locks, but flows in from the Gatun Lake, and a vessel rises three feet a minute.

Dead silence prevails as ships are pulled from lock to lock by electric locomotives.

Pacific-bound vessels steam southward through the artificial Gatun Lake of 164 square miles, formed by damming the River Chagres.

### THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS

Ahead lie the mountains of the divide, through which passes the Gaillard or Culebra Cut, 85 feet above sea level, the most difficult engineering feat and narrowest part of the canal, which was often blocked by landslides in early days.

Through one lock at Miraflores, then across the brackish Miraflores Lake, vessels proceed down to the Pacific by two locks at Balboa, prospering marine repair port close to the Panama capital of Panama City. This last lock has the biggest walls of all: for though tides on the Atlantic side are negligible, here they may rise and fall as much as 21 feet.

## TESTING-TIME BEFORE THE CAMERA

By Ernest Thomson, our Radio and TV Correspondent

FIVE young people—four girls and a man—have just passed their first camera test at Lime Grove for jobs as TV guest announcers. From Presentation Editor Clive Rawes I learned how difficult the tests are.

The lucky five were selected after Camera Test 1, which involves two announcements—one for memory, and one for tongue-twisters. Before Camera Test 2, each candidate "shadows" one of the permanent announcers, sitting alongside him or her in the studio during the evening programme.

After the second camera test, even more formidable than the first, comes the final ordeal—an actual announcement on the air in the afternoon. This is tele-recorded and seen later by a panel of judges, whose word is final.

### Excursion variety

LISTENERS to Saturday Excursion in Children's Hour this weekend will go afloat with Max Robertson on a North Sea trip by car ferry from Harwich to Zeebrugge.

They will then be switched by radio to Suva for Wynford Vaughan Thomas's report on how the Fiji Islanders are preparing for the Queen's arrival in the liner Gothic on December 17.

From Fiji the switch is to Earls Court, London, where Godfrey Baseley will be describing the cattle round-up for the Smithfield Show.

To end on a Christmas note, listeners will visit a toy factory.

### TV Scramble

SWIVELLING TV cameras perched on some of the steepest hills near London will show viewers a motor scramble at Wendover, Buckinghamshire, -on Saturday

afternoon. This contest, the second of its kind, is again being specially organised for TV because of the success of last year's events. This time extra turns and gradients will add to the thrills.

Three teams of expert trial drivers representing the North, Midlands, and South of England are competing for the Television Trophy—a perfect scale model of an outside broadcast camera with detachable lenses. At present it is held by the South.

### Star performer

JOURNEY to Adventure, the film viewers can see on Saturday afternoon, is made up of pictures of wild life in Africa taken over a period of 20 years by that great naturalist-sportsman, the late Cherry Kearton.

Kearton never carried a gun but "shot" his quarry with the film camera. Star of this film is Kearton's pet monkey, Toto.

### Youth before the mike

UNDER-TWENTIES will be exchanging views over 3000 miles of ocean this Thursday when the Light Programme stages a two-way Question Time between British and American youth in London and New York.

Three young people at each end will be heard asking and answering questions about the way they live.

Questions about America from under-twenties in different parts of Britain will be asked before an audience of young people in the Playhouse Theatre, London. On the British panel are Judy Clarke, in her first term at London University; Margaret Gilder, courier for the Ramblers' Association; and Andrew Bainbridge, reporter on a Swansea paper.

### In London Town after dark

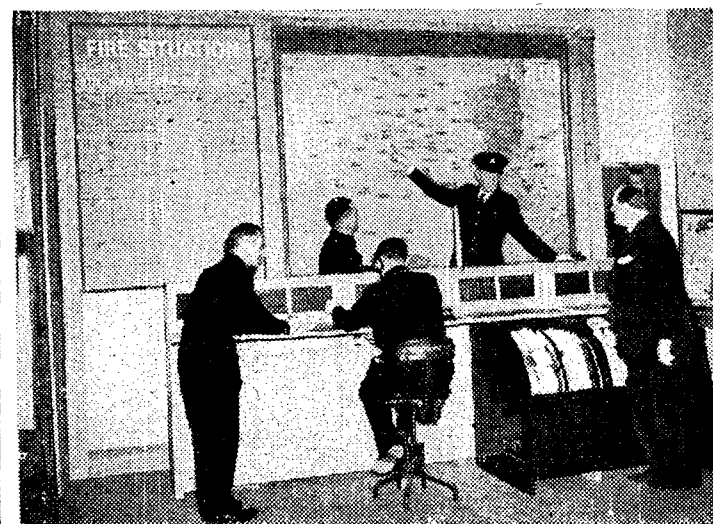
TELEVISION'S London Town will have a night out on Friday, December 18.

Producer Stephen McCormack tells me that he is calling the programme Night Shift, the idea being to introduce viewers to many Londoners whose jobs keep them busy when other people are asleep.

With Richard Dumbleby as

guide, the TV film cameras will visit police stations, power houses, hospitals, fire stations, and early-morning markets like Billingsgate and Covent Garden.

"We have shown London from most angles in daytime," says McCormack. "This will be the first time we have roamed the town in the small hours."



Richard Dumbleby at London Fire Brigade Headquarters



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# GATEWAYS TO SUCCESS

## 14—National College for Heating, Ventilating, Refrigeration, and Fan Engineering

OUT of the engineering industry there has grown a comparatively new branch of knowledge concerned with heating and refrigeration, ventilation, and air conditioning. And where it is necessary to force air through pipes some particular kind of fan is needed. So specialised has this become that there is a branch of industry devoted entirely to fan engineering.

It was not till well after the end of the war, in 1948, that the Ministry of Education developed a scheme which had already been started by the industries concerned, and set up a new college where people could study these subjects.

Close to the Borough Polytechnic in South London, it has flourished from the start.

Its task is to provide the specialist training necessary to ensure a steady flow of properly-trained young engineers who will one day be able to take responsible jobs, both technical and executive, in the industry. The college is the only one in the country giving this type of training.

THERE are many good jobs available in this field and the scope will be even wider in the future. In the nylon industry, for example, which is growing daily, the dampness or dryness (humidity) of the air and the control of its temperature are absolutely vital, and specialist engineers are required.

Or again, if you like the chance to travel, refrigeration officers are needed on the big ships which carry frozen meat and other perishables across the seas of the world.

In this age we can no longer always take the atmosphere around us for granted. We may need to warm it, chill it, or purify it. And we may find, in certain circumstances, difficulty in getting adequate supplies of it at all.

Take mine ventilation, for instance. In very deep mines, such as the gold mines in South Africa, the heat at the bottom is so great that no one could work there for long unless cool air was steadily supplied.

In coal-mining, the lives of underground workers depend on the air supply to dilute the fire-damp given off from the coal face, as well as to give reasonably cool conditions.

The difficulty is that as air is pumped along a mine road, rock dust is blown about and gets into miners' lungs. Water sprays can be used to lay the dust but they wet the miner's boots and clothes.

In Belgium, though, they have already tried air-conditioning in coal mines and the idea will spread. But it needs expert study.

DIFFERENT types of building in temperate and cold climates have their heating problems—cinemas and hospitals for instance. And there are questions of piping waste heat from factories or power stations to warm whole building

estates, as at Pimlico in London. In the tropics, on the other hand, offices and homes need cooling to make life tolerable.

Then there is the question of removing dust from certain factories. Perhaps few people know that sugar dust, starch dust, and others can explode. The pipes through which these dusts are removed from the factory must be designed and sited so that in the event of any explosion and a breakage in the system, that breakage will happen where desired, as in the case of a fuse-box in an electric system. The same danger has to be guarded against in the metal, powder, and paint industries.

In cotton factories the atmosphere has to be cleared of harmful stuff. In foundries it is necessary to get rid of sand from the moulds as it is being removed from castings by pneumatic chisels or wire brushes.

THERE are special problems in cooling the interiors of high-speed aircraft which, by friction, could get too hot for the passengers. There are other problems in tunnels.

In the Mersey Tunnel at Liverpool or the Escart Tunnel at

Antwerp the carbon monoxide from exhaust pipes must somehow be got out of the air.

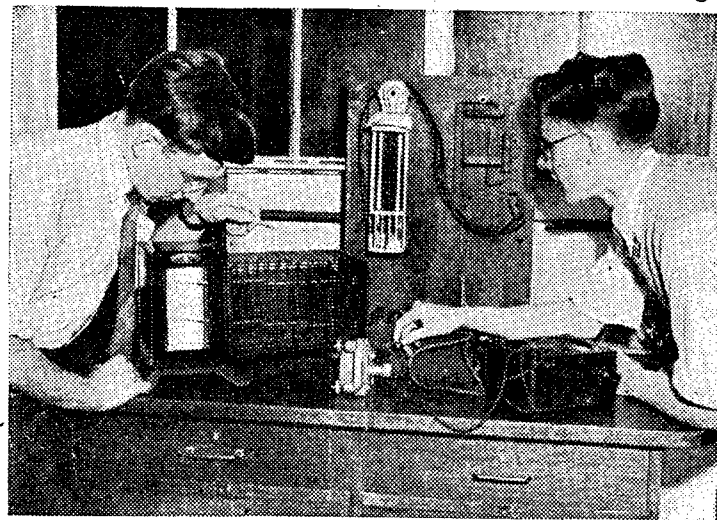
A curious fact about the London Tube railways is that, owing to the electricity constantly being used, the air down there is getting gradually hotter every year.

Refrigeration is needed in all large food stores—such as the many erected by the Government during the war. And just think of the demands by the ever-increasing ice-cream industry.

These are just a few aspects of the industry the College was created to serve.

THE College provides full-time diploma courses for those boys (and girls) who wish to become draughtsmen or technologists in one of these industries. They are for students from all over the country (and a few from abroad) who are prepared to leave home if necessary. For these a special residence is provided at Dulwich.

These courses last for one or two years, according to the pupil's needs. If you have an ordinary national certificate in mechanical engineering or its equivalent, you need only go for one year. But

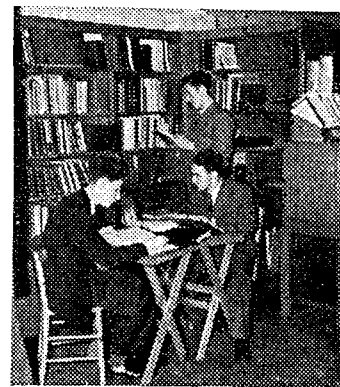


Measuring temperature and humidity of air with a thermo-hygrometer

if you are just leaving school, with a general certificate of education (with mathematics and physics at the advanced level), you have to attend for two years, during which time you will also get some industrial experience.

Then there is the associateship course of higher standard, for diploma and degree students, which provides advanced studies on specialised subjects and some training in research. In both the diploma and associateship courses, the student specialises in either heating and ventilating, refrigeration, or fan engineering.

Evening courses, for students over 21, are given to prepare them for associate membership of the



Students at work in the library

corresponding professional institutions.

Local courses (one day a week) are for those living in London or nearby who are already employed in the industry as operative apprentices and want to take the Intermediate and Final Examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

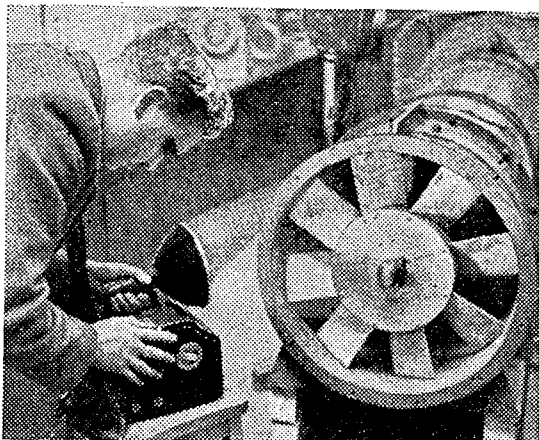
ON a visit to the College I was shown various interesting experiments going on. There was an apparatus for finding out how air behaves when it is forced into a room through a duct. They were trying to find out how far it went into the room with a given impetus, and how it went round corners of projecting features such as one finds in a factory.

Then there was a set-up on a bench to show how and to what extent outside air gets into a building through a closed metal window—important to know when you are studying space heating.

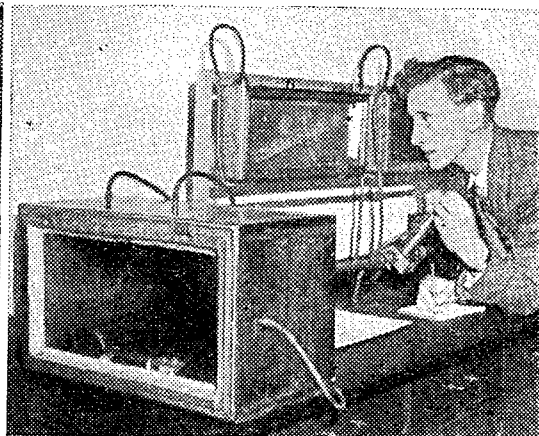
I also watched rape-seed being sucked along a pipe, a section of which had transparent walls. This illustrated the behaviour of grains forced through tubes such as are used to unload ships into grain-elevators. On the outside of the pipe the friction of the rushing particles inside was generating enough static electricity to make one's hair stand on end if it touched the tube.

Next I had a look at a rectangular section of a wind tunnel in which aerofoils were to be tested to determine the best shape for making fan blades for various jobs. The more efficient these blades can be made, the more economical they are to run.

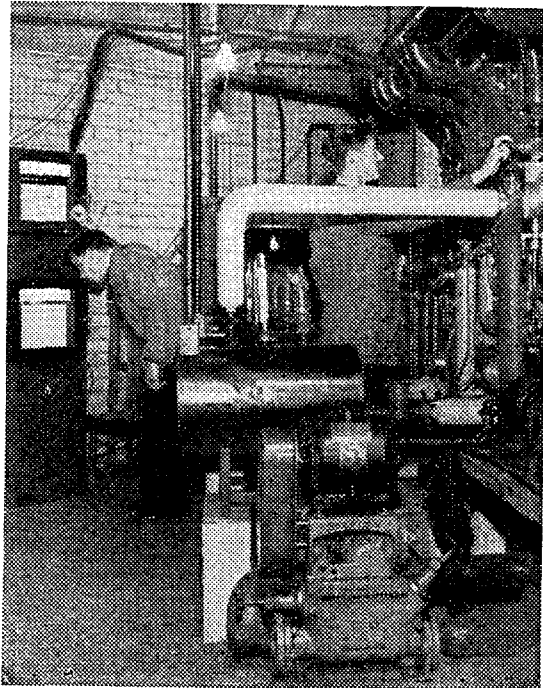
The college has a laboratory for each branch of its work, and a good library as well. And I thought this a very promising "Gateway" indeed. A. V. I.



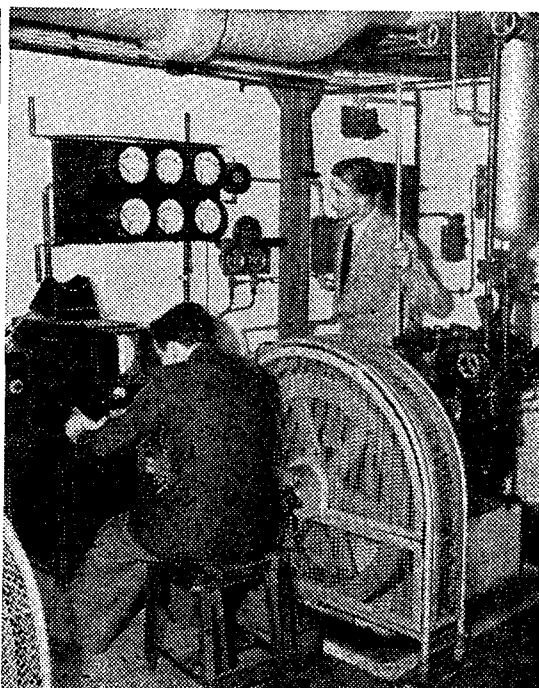
Using an electronic stroboscope to find the number of revolutions per minute made by a revolving fan



Measuring how much air finds its way into a room through cracks round the window frame



Taking readings on the experimental heating plant



Watching changes of pressure on a cathode ray tube



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars · London · E C 4  
DECEMBER 5 . . . . . 1953

## ROBIN HOOD FOR EVER

THE Sheriff of Nottingham has quite rightly and very proudly declared that Nottingham intends to have its Robin Hood for ever.

Historians are not in agreement about the origin of Robin Hood. What is certain is that, man or myth, he is imperishably linked with Sherwood Forest as a romantic outlaw chief who made war on tyranny of any kind.

But he was not a Communist, as an American educationist has labelled him; and it is hard to believe that anyone will take seriously the suggestion that American children should not read the lively legends of gallantry that have been handed down to us through the centuries.

Robin Hood is likely to outlive much of modern politics. His chivalry and his concern for his fellow men secured him a place among the immortals of English literature.

We believe that as long as children love a greenwood tale Robin Hood and his Merry Men will not be neglected, whatever their political views may have been.

*He clothed himself in scarlet then,  
His men were all in green;  
A finer show in all the world  
In no place could be seen.*



## Under the Editor's Table

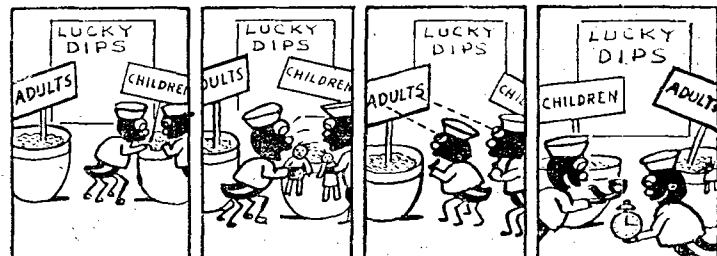
**PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW**

If billposters can stick up for themselves

Some people work all day with only a brief break for lunch. Should have had something more substantial.

Roads in a Midland town collapsed because of rats. Residents were in a hole.

**BILLY BEETLE**



## Peak country for the people

THE glorious Kinder plateau in the Peak District is now officially open to all. The Peak Park Planning Board have made agreements with the owners of the land for the public to have access to nearly 6000 acres of this fine walking country.

All who ramble over these wild, unspoiled moorlands will now be free of any proceedings for trespass, provided that they do not damage gates, walls, or fences. They must also refrain from lighting fires, hunting, shooting, or fishing.

Let us hope that they will add a voluntary prohibition, and not disfigure this lovely region with litter.

## Initial trouble

By a unanimous decision, the Upper House of the French Parliament recently asked the French Government to take some action to control the increasing use of initials which denote various organisations.

Explaining the need for this, one speaker in the debate declared: "When one reads that the parties of the R.I., A.R.S., I.O.M., P.R.L., R.G.R. and G.D. du C.R. are proposing to set up a committee for the study of the problems of the U.F. and especially of the A.E.F., the A.O.F., the T.O.M. and the E.A., one wonders what it is all about."

People in Britain will heartily sympathise, for we are similarly afflicted. But we fear that we shall have to continue grappling with G.A.T.T., and O.E.E.C., and E.D.C., and all the rest. There is, alas, no way of making it as easy as ABC.

## JUST AN IDEA

As Sir A. W. Pinero wrote: It costs so small an effort to be a little better.

Portraits in carpets are the latest fashion. They take a lot of beating.

Horses sometimes have their off days. And so do their riders.

Why aren't handbags luminous? asks a writer. Most housewives think they are light enough already.

A London mews is to keep its cobblestones. A petition from residents paved the way.

# The Editor's Table

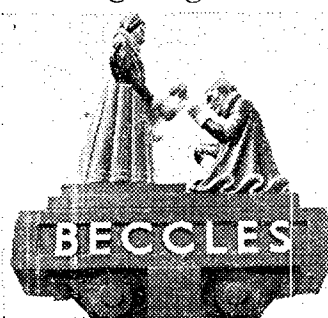
## THE RIGHT IDEA

ONE of the questions asked of children in a recent Road Safety Week lesson at Horbury, Yorkshire, was: "What should you do before you cross the road?"

One boy's written reply, although not conforming strictly to the Highway Code, contained both a smile and a good deal of common sense.

"Look before you leap," he wrote—and got full marks for having the right idea.

## Village signs—12



This sign at Beccles shows Elizabeth I presenting the charter to John Baase, the Suffolk town's first mayor, in the year 1581.

## Dot, dash

It takes longer to make a full-stop than a dash. This astonishing fact has been determined by a "handwriting measuring" machine, a Dutch electronic device.

On reflection, perhaps this is not so astonishing. A dash sounds as though it would take less time than a stop.

## Please remember the dogs

THERE are many old age pensioners whose only companion is a faithful dog.

Life is not easy for these old folk and, while friends usually rally round to provide a Christmas dinner for them, the dog is sometimes overlooked.

The Road Safety Dog Displays organisation hopes to put this right. They are planning to send a small Christmas parcel of tinned dog food to all the aged dog owners they know, and they believe that there must be many other dog-lovers who will be prepared to follow their example.

## Think on These Things

JESUS told the story of a man who was excited because he had found treasure and sought to make it his own (St. Matthew 13, verse 44).

He accidentally uncovered the treasure while ploughing a field. And to make it his own he sold all he had and bought the field. Owning the field made the treasure his.

Jesus encouraged people to seek the truth hidden in His Gospel. That is like finding hidden treasure: and no less thrilling.

F. P.

## Creator of Humphrey Clinker

IN a letter to The Times, an American, Mr. Howard Nelson, has described his fruitless search for the grave of Tobias Smollett in the tiny English cemetery at Leghorn in Italy, where he was buried in 1771.

"The cemetery is an abandoned, desolate place," he writes, "and after an hour of scrambling through the brambles I could not find the grave."

Tobias Smollett, creator of those rollicking novels Roderick Random and Peregrine Pickle, and of the immortal Humphrey Clinker, ranks with Fielding among the great 18th-century writers of fiction.

It would be a pity if his last resting-place were to be lost sight of for ever, neglected beneath the weeds.

## Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, December 8, 1923

SHALL we ever be able to see across the Atlantic? Some of the experiments which M. Edouard Belin has been making, and which he has lately described before the Society of Arts, make us think it is far from impossible.

Already, as is well known, impressions of handwriting, of drawings made in line, and even of the arrangements of finely-stippled dots which make up a black-and-white picture in the C.N., can be telegraphed over wires.

M. Belin says that sooner or later similar light-messages will be flashed across space without wires. Already he has been able to transmit by wireless impressions of stippled pictures.

It is only one step farther to transmit images of things as they happen.

## REAL TREASURE

A faithful friend is a strong defence: and he that hath found such an one hath found a treasure.

Nothing can countervail a faithful friend, and his excellence is invaluable.

Apocrypha (Ecclesiasticus)

## THEY SAY . . .

TELEVISION and other modern inventions should be rationed and included in a mixed diet of everyday life. They must be our slaves and not our masters.

Headmaster of a Nottingham Grammar School

Too much attention is paid nowadays to the material or scientific side of life. It is the value-judging side of the mind that decides what use we make of the material benefits of the modern age.

Director of the National Gallery of Scotland

It is not too much to say that the exploitation of nuclear energy may come to be regarded as the most important step taken by man in the mastery of Nature since the discovery of fire.

White Paper on Atomic Energy

OUR boys and girls are as good material as they ever were, but, as always, they need guidance and wise discipline.

The Bishop of Peterborough

It looks after all as if man will succeed in outwitting the insect.

World Health Organisation

EVERY child in every class knows something the teacher does not.

Vice-Principal of Derby Training College

## Out and About

ON the newly-creosoted fence round a big fruit garden are some small, flattened moths. Weakened by the cold, they were blown against the wood and perished. They are all males.

The females of this species have probably been climbing the stems of the fruit trees, their undeveloped wings not enabling them to fly. On the branches they may have laid already the eggs which will produce the geometer caterpillar (sometimes called the "looper"), which eats the Spring blossom.

Wise fruit-growers usually put a band of fly-paper or some other sticky substance round each trunk to stop the climbing moths in time.

There are other small, pale moths at this time to be seen, when most of their enemies, such as the sleeping bats, are not about.

C. D. D.



## OUR HOMELAND

The palace moat and the cathedral at Wells, Somerset



The Children's Newspaper, December 5, 1953

## HEADS OF THE FAMOUS

BEAUTIFUL examples of the portrait-sculptor's art are on view in London in what is believed to be the first exhibition of its kind ever held.

Called The Famous in Sculpture, it consists of an impressive array of celebrated people's heads carved or modelled by leading sculptors. The exhibition is being held at South Kensington's Imperial Institute until December 22.

Perhaps its most striking feature is the skill with which the sculptors have captured and fixed the characteristic qualities of their models. Thus the serenity of the Queen is expressed in stone by George H. Paulin; the courage of Odette Churchill is pictured in bronze by Fiore de Henriquez; the rugged confidence of Sir Edmund Hillary is shown in plaster by Ophelia Gordon-Bell; and the supersonic look is in Eva Castle's plaster model of Neville Duke.

Mrs. Castle had quite a job in modelling the test pilot. She went down to Dunsfold Aerodrome, and waited until he announced his arrival there with a "terrific, thunderous roar." As a sitter, she said, he was "patient and sweet," but she prayed for bad weather, because whenever it was fine he disappeared into thin air.

Eva Castle is the subject of an interesting item at the exhibition

### BIG CATCH

In one hour recently three fishermen caught 1500 fish in a pool at Oakley House, near Bedford—and were disappointed in the catch!

The men were members of the River Board's netting team which travels all over the country in search of fish to restock depleted areas. Their equipment includes several strong nets, a small rowing boat, and a specially-designed trailer complete with storage tanks and oxygen cylinders.

To the team 1500 fish are a poor reward for a day's work. At Longholme, Bedford, they once had 75,000 in the net, and a week's "fishing" in a Norfolk lake produced a bag of over a million.

The Oakley fish, of many species, are now swimming in Huntingdonshire rivers 50 miles from their birthplace. The pools at Oakley House, known as stew ponds, have been used for 200 years to breed fish for the River Ouse.

### SLOW PROGRESS

A lorry recently took two days to travel 210 miles from Yorkshire to London.

The reason for this slow progress was that on the lorry was Giovanni da Bologna's marble statue of Samson and the Philistine.

This 6-foot 10-inch sculpture might have cracked if the lorry had jolted, so it proceeded at walking pace, guarded day and night until it reached the Victoria and Albert Museum.

### WATCH BELOW

The crew of a dredger working at the port of New Plymouth in New Zealand had a big surprise the other day when the scoop brought up about 100 Swiss watches from the ocean bed.

called Variations on a Theme. For this her head was modelled by nine sculptors—including herself.

As we survey these nine heads they seem at first to be of different people, but a closer inspection reveals a fascinating "family like-



Robert Taylor, by Eva Castle

ness." All have interpreted the subject differently, but all have preserved the chief characteristics.

She herself liked them equally, she told a CN representative, but her own contribution was done in mosaic—the medium she also used for her head of Robert Taylor, the film star.

Material of quite another kind, carved transparent plastic, was used by Josephina de Vasconcellos for her study of Sherpa Tensing. It is appropriate to his exploits, for his head looks as though it were carved out of ice.

Among many other famous people portrayed are the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Winston Churchill, President Eisenhower, Margaret Lockwood, and Claire Bloom. The heads by Jacob Epstein of T. S. Eliot and Pundit Nehru hold attention by what has been called the "radio-active" quality he imparts to his work.



Eva Castle's head of Neville Duke

## In the Air

By the CN Flying Correspondent

### He learnt to fly before breakfast

SUPERMARINE Aviation, one of the oldest firms in the aircraft industry, recently celebrated its 40th birthday.

Supermarine were responsible for the sleek racing seaplanes that won the Schneider Trophy outright for Britain, the renowned Spitfire, and its jet-age counterpart, the Swift.

Among the memorable tales concerning the founder of Supermarine—the late Noel Pemberton Billing—is the wager he made with Sir Frederick Handley Page that he would learn to fly and obtain a Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate within 24 hours. In fact, he did this between 5.45 a.m. and breakfast one morning!

### Saucer spotters

FROM Canada comes news of the world's first official body to be set up to investigate the existence of "flying saucers."

Operating under the direction of the Canadian Department of Transport, a team of scientists have started a 24-hour watch on the northern skies from fully-equipped laboratories at Shirley Bay, near Ottawa.

### Auster Bo-peep

AFTER searching on horseback for a lost flock of sheep periodically for nearly nine months, an Australian farmer thought that as a last resort he would try to spot them from the air. After a brief search in an Auster lightplane, he found the flock grazing in some scrubland 15 miles away from his farm!

### Princess plans

THE Ministry of Supply has made a move to find an operator for the three Sanders-Roe Princess flying-boats. For some considerable time the future of these giant 100-passenger machines has hung in the balance, following a decision by BOAC in 1951 not to operate them.

One Princess has done 80 hours of development flying since its initial flight in August 1952, and the other two have been "cocooned" in a semi-completed state pending a decision about their future.

Aquila Airways, Britain's only flying-boat operator, has offered to purchase all three at a price in excess of a million pounds each, and now BOAC has decided that if the boats can be fitted with more powerful engines, they too will be interested in flying them.

### Copter golf

HELICOPTERS have not only proved themselves reliable and extremely useful maids-of-all-work, but they have also lent themselves to a number of light-hearted "stunts."

Now comes news that Milton Reynolds, the U.S. millionaire pen-manufacturer, has used a helicopter to fly him from shot to shot during a game of golf!

Win a £50 holiday voucher in this great painting competition or one of these super prizes



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Just ask Mummy to get the entry form next time she's at the chemist. There are two age-groups—up to 8 and between 9-12 inclusive. So don't forget: See you get your entry form. Go in—and good luck. Separate prizes for boys and girls.

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## 8 YOUNG SOUTH SEAS MISSIONARIES

Two young Londoners, Jack and Alice Hoadley, have just returned to their missionary post in faraway Samoa, where they live on the island of Tutuila.

One of their means of getting home is by the Children's Ship of Goodwill, the John Williams VI. From its base at Suva, in Fiji, this little 400-ton motor ship sails for Samoa, and gets there in four days.

It has a spacious double cabin for the missionaries, but on the deck there are cases of supplies for Samoa roped down ready for the expected storms.

### EXPERT SEAMEN

The crew nearly all come from the Gilbert Islands and are expert seamen. Two of them, Titivalu and Tangarroa, have just passed the examination as assistant engineers and look after the 150 h.p. engine.

From Apia Harbour, in Samoa, the Hoadleys have another adventurous voyage to cross six miles of sea to Tutuila. If no launch is available a long Samoan canoe will come for them, and on the shore a long line of Samoan people dressed in white will welcome them back from London.

The Samoans are particularly proud of having two Londoners working on their island, because it was another Londoner, John Williams, who in 1820 first brought Christianity to the islands. The London Missionary Society still sends missionaries to this day.

### PASSING OF THE LAMPLIGHTER

Holborn Borough Council is to abolish its remaining gas street lamps in favour of fluorescent lighting, automatically controlled.

For its 700 hand-lit lamps Holborn employed seven lamplighters—some of the few remaining in the country. There are about 60,000 gas lamps in London now, but only 5000 are still lit by hand.

The sight of the lamplighter which so thrilled Robert Louis Stevenson is rapidly disappearing.

## Steps to Sporting Fame



Leicester City are making a spirited bid to return to First Division football, and in the vanguard of their attack is big Arthur Rowley.



Born at Wolverhampton and a member of that town's schoolboy team, Arthur often used to collect the autographs of the leading Wolverhampton Wanderers players. Special favourites were asked again and again.



At 15, he played for Manchester United's wartime team, along with his elder brother Jack. When League football was resumed, he joined West Bromwich Albion, then Fulham, and then Leicester.



A vivid memory is the final match of the 1948-9 season. By beating West Ham 2-0 Fulham finished the season Second Division champions. Both goals were scored by Rowley, who was carried off shoulder-high.

## LANOOSHWAIA OF THE LAND OF FIRE

Behind Cape Horn lies an island of storms and snow where the natives keep their fires going almost continuously, thus gaining for their country the name of Tierra del Fuego—Land of Fire.

Here in the last century was born E. Lucas Bridges, an English missionary's son who was to become the first white man to live among a mysterious, warring tribe called the Ona Indians.

Lucas Bridges died in 1949, at the age of 75, and now his adventurous story, written especially for young readers, is presented by another adventurer, A. F. Tschiffely, known to us for his famous ride from Argentina to Washington.

His book is called *The Man from Woodpecker Creek* (Hodder and Stoughton, 8s. 6d.)—the name given to Bridges by the Indians when he ventured into their unexplored territory where white prospectors had disappeared without trace.

Lucas Bridges was born in 1874 at the small mission his father had established in Fireland. The boy grew to manhood among the friendly Indians of the coast, able to compete with their best hunters and fish with a spear from a canoe.

Educated by a tutor, he spent his spare time with the Indians, or braving the tempestuous Cape Horn seas in a small sailing boat.

Beyond the mountains lived the dreaded Ona tribe, and when Bridges grew up he decided he would have to meet these phantom-like warriors. Lanooswaia (the Man from Woodpecker Creek) went off to the mountains aware that he was watched all the way.

One day he was suddenly confronted by three of them, tall imposing men in queer conical hats. With fear gripping his heart, he made gestures of peace—and they put down their bows and arrows.

Gradually he won the friendship of these suspicious and ferocious people. They invited him to live among them, and made him their blood brother—a rite which involved having a red-hot ember placed on his bare arm.

### SHARKS OFFSHORE

The warm November weather brought sharks close inshore off Whitby.

Fishermen returning to port said that when they were hauling lines sharks came under the boats and took fish from the hooks.

Different groups of the Ona carried on murderous vendettas against one another, and the white man's self-appointed task was now to bring peace among them. He went continually from one warring group to another—suspected by both—pointing out their madness in killing their own people.

At last he was able to arrange a great peace ritual at which warfare among the Ona was ended.

As civilisation advanced in Tierra del Fuego, Bridges longed to blaze new trails. He crossed the Strait of Magellan and rode to an almost inaccessible region among the southern Andes.

In 1914 he came to Britain to fight in the First World War, afterwards establishing a farm in a part of Southern Rhodesia marked on the map as "Unsuitable for White Settlement." From there he returned to the southern Andes.

When the time came to say farewell to the Man from Woodpecker Creek, a friend of his wrote: "I like to believe that this heroic gentle soul, free now from mortal pains and frailty, continues in some wider sphere to weave for God the Garment that we see Him by."

## NAVIGATING A SPACE SHIP

If the clocks of a space ship failed to function the vessel might be furnished with its own small satellite to revolve round it for time-keeping purposes. This suggestion was referred to in a recent lecture to the British Interplanetary Society by Dr. J. G. Porter of Greenwich Observatory:

The space ship's miniature "moon" would be about the size of a football, and it would revolve once round the parent vessel in two and a half months at a distance of 100 feet.

### OTHER PROBLEMS

Other space ship problems were discussed by Dr. Porter. He pointed out that for a space ship to graze the orbit of Mars 181 days after taking off, it would have to leave the Earth's orbit at 20.6 miles per second—about two miles a second faster than the Earth travels round the sun.

The slightest error in speed at the ship's departure, say, of one thousandth of a mile a second, would cause it to miss its destination by 50,000 miles, or 12 times the diameter of Mars.

Dr. Porter also said that the ship's speed throughout its voyage would have to be known with great precision. "It is here that the technicians of the future will have a problem to solve," he went on, "for no method at present available would be accurate enough."

## CATCHING MOTHS BY NIGHT

The Bradford Naturalists Society was told recently of the astonishing results of an experimental moth trap using a mercury vapour light.

The experiment, which was carried out on 146 nights from April 13 to October 16, caught no fewer than 16,735 moths of 132 species. The highest catch was on the night of August 8 when 1122 moths of 44 species were trapped.

Pests can be destroyed in this way, and harmless moths released.

## THE AFRICAN JOURNEYS OF MUNGO PARK—picture-story of a famous explorer (5)



Ali agreed that Mungo should be taken to Jarra, but he insisted that the white man's faithful boy, Demba, should become his slave. Mungo pleaded to be allowed to keep Demba, but the tyrant would not listen. Tearfully the explorer parted from his devoted servant, then mounted his horse—which was in a wretched condition owing to being half starved by the Moors—and went with Ali's men to the town of Jarra.



Mungo's one thought now was to escape from the Moors who, he felt sure, would eventually kill him. The native war was spreading towards Jarra, causing a panic. Its inhabitants and the Moors evacuated the place, taking the white man with them. They stopped at another town and there, while they slept, Mungo managed to slip away on his poor thin horse. But at dawn he saw armed Moors galloping after him.



He could not hope to escape on his broken-down nag, and in despair he awaited them, pretending he had not been trying to get away from Ali. These Moors, however, had evidently not been sent to bring him back. They were merely robbers who took his cloak, the only thing of value left to him, for his horse was worthless. Brandishing their muskets as a warning to him not to follow them, they rode away.



Mungo was free, but in a desperate plight. He was alone in unknown Africa with nothing more than what he stood up in. He might have tried to return to the coast, but the thought of going back to England without accomplishing his mission of exploring the Niger, was worse than death. Grimly he pushed on. Later, faint with thirst and hunger, he climbed a tree in the hope of seeing some human habitation.

With no means of buying food, can Mungo hope to reach the Niger? See next week's instalment



## SCOTLAND'S YOUNG SINGERS IN CANADA

Two years ago, at a meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, two ministers had a talk. One was a Canadian, from Toronto, the other was the Rev. John R. Macpherson, of the small Scots town of Kirkintilloch.

As a result ten boys and 15 girls are now about to sing their way through the Province of Ontario.

It would have been a proud hour for Mr. Macpherson, but, alas, he died last March, leaving his widow to continue the conducting of a choir that has formed a notable part of Scotland's musical life since 1936.

The history of this junior choir began not at Kirkintilloch but in the little Highland township of Kinlochleven. During his ministry there Mr. Macpherson took the children's choir to Band of Hope competitions in Glasgow.

Travelling was no easy matter, for the competitions were held in March and the old road over the Black Mount was often blocked by snow. Sometimes a startled deer, seeking food on the lower slopes of the hills, would run across the path of the bus.

### PRIZEWINNING HABIT

But difficulties did not dismay the children, and they made a habit of returning with nearly all the prizes.

On going to Kirkintilloch, Mr. Macpherson soon formed a junior choir with a reputation second to none in the country. On its first appearance at the Glasgow Music Festival it was awarded second prize, and the following year it came first—a position it thereafter maintained.

As a former member and conductor of the Glasgow Arion Choir, Mrs. Macpherson has the musical background that enables her to carry on her husband's work with knowledge and enthusiasm.

### IN THE FAMILY

Music runs in the family. Her son, Eric, a radio operator, followed his father's example by forming a choir while he was stationed at Wick in the North of Scotland.

Modelled on that of Kirkintilloch, it won a gold medal at Aberdeen the year after its formation, and also appeared in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Her younger son, Ian, has been first in the honours class for Scots songs, and earlier this year ensured wedded harmony by marrying a girl who sang in duets in the Kirkintilloch Junior Choir.

### SEVERAL TOURS

The Kirkintilloch Choir has sung throughout Scotland, made several tours of English towns, and has also visited Northern Ireland, Holland, and Denmark. It has broadcast and made many records, the most popular of which was a duet, Gentle Jesus, sung by two girls and recorded in Greyfriars Church, Glasgow.

Various hymns and the 23rd Psalm in "braid Scots" have proved the most popular items in their concert repertoire.

The old Scots songs are also constantly in demand. After hearing a rendering of Ye Banks and Braes, one man said he had never heard any performance to equal it, and asked if he could have a tape-recording to send to a friend in Hanover.

The choir has sung at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh, the St. Andrew's Hall in Glasgow, in churches and hospitals, and for Highland Societies all over the country. But the concert that delights most of all is the one given every Christmas Eve at a Glasgow cinema, with the Lord and Lady Provost in attendance.

At midnight, following a recording of church bells, the choir joyfully announces the coming of Christmas with a rendering of Ring Out Ye Crystal Spheres.

### MALCOLM JUNIOR

The youngest member of the choir is seven-year-old Malcolm Sargent—no relation to the famous conductor. The word "Junior" in the title has recently led to an age limit of 21—a ruling that has led to the formation of a new choir in Kirkintilloch—the Carillon Singers.

On the Canadian tour the choir will be dressed in a variety of kilts, with Mrs. Macpherson herself wearing one of which she is justifiably proud—a hunting Macpherson kilt specially made for her by Hugh Macpherson of Toronto.

### IS THAT MY VOICE?

There were surprises—and shocks—for some London school-children the other day; for the first time in their lives they heard their voices as others hear them.

"Don't we sound babyish!" commented some of the girls.

They had been taking part in a speech-training experiment among over 4000 L.C.C. secondary school pupils with a tape-recording apparatus. The equipment has also been used for teaching French and singing, and the same method may be tried in other parts of the country.

### Hove-to



Mr. F. G. Chapman of Hove stops his pedal-driven "paddle-steamer" to have a chat with a bus driver. Made from a canoe carried by submarines, it can be used both on land and water.

## BIRD-WATCHING IN THE HEBRIDES

At this time of the year boys and girls in the Hebrides have a most interesting time watching the different kinds of birds that pass overhead on their way to warmer climes from the coldness of Iceland and other northern regions.

A correspondent at Stornoway reports that ten-year-old Colin MacInnes of the little village of Marybank, in the Isle of Lewis, found a redwing near his home. The bird had a ring marked Mus. Nat. Reykjavik 74460 on its leg, but the 600-mile flight from Iceland had proved too much for it. It was dead.

### EXHAUSTED VISITOR

A very-much-alive visitor was a stormy petrel, the smallest British maritime bird. A tiny thing, not much bigger than a sparrow, this petrel might never have arrived at Stornoway, capital of Lewis, if it had not fallen exhausted on the deck of the fishery cruiser Vailla as she was patrolling some miles off the Lewis Coast.

It was cared for aboard, and when the Vailla came into port, the captain handed the little bird to a local hairdresser, Mr. George MacCormack. He could not identify the bird himself, so he passed it on to an amateur ornithologist in the town, Customs Officer Peter Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham recognised the stranger as a stormy petrel, but had a problem in feeding it. He offered it butter and other oily foods, but it seemed more interested in resting and regaining its strength. It was quite tame and preened itself on Mr. Cunningham's table, or flew about the room, its little six-inch-long black body, with white band beneath the wings, darting inquisitively about from corner to corner.

### BACK TO THE ATLANTIC

When the bird had quite recovered, Mr. Cunningham took it to the end of Stornoway Pier and let it fly off over the Atlantic.

In olden days sailors believed stormy petrels nested on the sea because they were never seen on land, but now it is known that they come to their nests at dusk and leave before dawn.

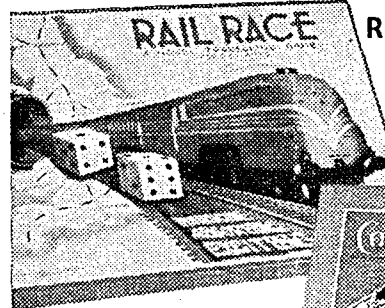
Another bird not usually seen in the Hebrides is the fieldfare, but lately flocks of them have been passing overhead. They look very like the missel thrush but have whiter underparts, and are slightly bigger than the song thrush.

### LIKE A LINNET

A bird which looks like a linnnet, except that the underparts are white and the back reddish brown with dark spots, is the snow bunting, which in summer favours Arctic regions or high mountain districts. This winter visitor has also been seen in the Isle of Lewis recently.

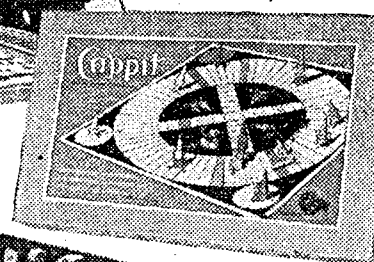
Another Icelandic visitor, a goose, was found among domesticated geese at Grimsay, Lochmaddy, North Uist. It is a small grey one, ringed with No. 13391 Mus. Natural Reykjavik, but seems in no hurry to go back home. It has settled down quite happily with the Lochmaddy geese.

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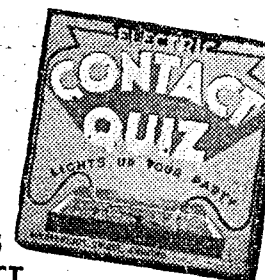
### FLOUNDERING

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## CLUB FOR YOUNG NATURALISTS

The Field Observers' Club for boys and girls over 14, has been started at the Natural History Museum in London to carry on outdoor research. Its 28 members have graduated from the Junior Nature Club founded at the Museum some years ago.

The idea came from two boys and a girl who went to a meeting of young naturalists in Holland, and were inspired by what they heard there.

Three members of the new club are organising a survey of birds, fish, and snails in Wanstead Park, while others are studying gulls and mallard in London parks.

The Field Observers hope that similar small groups in other parts will affiliate with them.

## RETURN TO SERVICE

After 50 years of work among the peoples of the North-West Frontier Province, Sir Henry Holland, the eye specialist, has been asked by the tribesmen to return. Sir Henry is 78 years old.

He will take up his work again at Shikarpur with his son, Dr. Ronald Holland, who is already serving there with the Church Missionary Society.

## HOT NEWS

An American airman stationed at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, received a pie within a few hours of its being baked by his wife in Florida—and it was still hot!

The pie had been placed by the engines of a jet bomber which took five hours to fly to Britain.

## DISAPPOINTED INVENTOR

THIS week marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of an Englishman who revolutionised a great industry.

Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, was born on December 3, 1753, in a small cottage at Bolton, Lancashire.

His father, a tenant farmer who had taken to weaving, died when Samuel was only five, and his mother, a capable but harsh woman, taught him early how to spin and weave. She also sent him to school to study mathematics.

Samuel Crompton soon discovered the defects of the cotton-spinning machines then in use. The fine yarn produced by Hargreaves's spinning jenny was suitable for the weft (a cross thread), but it was not strong enough for the warp (a long thread which runs the length of a piece of cloth).

Another machine patented by Richard Arkwright, at one time a Bolton barber, produced a strong, coarse yarn that was suitable for a warp thread.

### YEARS OF EXPERIMENT

Working long into the night, young Samuel Crompton tried to find a solution to the cotton trade's problem. How could a yarn be produced that was both strong and fine?

By the time he was 21 Samuel Crompton was on the right track. And after five more years of trial and experiment he invented a machine which became known as the spinning mule, which contained features of both Hargreaves's and Arkwright's inventions. The main principle of the machine was, however, entirely original.

As soon as the cotton merchants saw the fineness and the quantity

of the yarn that Samuel Crompton was spinning on his mule, a succession of unwelcome visitors tried to wrest his secret from him.

At last, tired of the constant spying on his home, he was persuaded to give the invention to the cotton industry. All he received after surrendering the secret was £67 6s. 6d., which was a sum contributed by cotton firms to a subscription list.

A bitterly disappointed man, Crompton said that those who had taken the secret of the mule were "a set of unprincipled beings."

Crompton became an inventor with a grievance. Others, like Arkwright and James Watt, had amassed large sums. Crompton, struggling with poverty, could see with his own eyes that the spinning mule was revolutionising the cotton industry and making large profits for the owners.

Thirty years after the secret of the spinning mule had become public property, Crompton determined to petition Parliament for a grant. After many months of anxious waiting he was awarded the small sum of £5000.

### SHABBY TREATMENT

This fell far short of the amount that Crompton had expected. For introducing the mail coach system John Palmer was awarded £78,344 by the House of Commons, just one day after it had dealt with Crompton's case. Little wonder that this man who had made vast fortunes for so many manufacturers, felt that he had been shabbily treated.

Dogged by ill-luck to the very end, Samuel Crompton died on June 26, 1827.

Unhonoured while he lived, he has since been recognised as a leading figure in Britain's Industrial Revolution.

During his birth anniversary, special celebrations are being held in Bolton to commemorate the town's famous son. His statue in the square, the cottage where he was born, the house where he invented the mule, and the original mule itself, are all carefully preserved.

Samuel Crompton of Bolton will never be forgotten.



## In hospital but not downhearted

Physically-handicapped boys at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield, Yorkshire, have formed their own Boy Scout Troop, and in the top picture some of them are shown enjoying a "Camp Fire" sing-song in their ward.

In the grounds of the Connaught Hospital at Walthamstow, London, a circus gave a performance; but some of the children were too ill to attend, so the circus went to them. In the picture on the right Kathryn Adlington of Leyton is seen making friends with circus folk and their llama.



## For Christmas

### to be Christmas...

...there must be so many things. Carols, presents, stockings, puddings, a tree... and, for young and old alike, a feeling of home, of being with people who love and understand. No one in our care goes short of this last ingredient; but will you help us to see that the others are there too, for all in our great family? Christmas gifts will be most gratefully received by General Albert Orsborn, 113 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

**The Salvation Army**





## ECCENTRIC POET

THE Golden Age of the first Queen Elizabeth produced many a finer poet than John Taylor, who died in London 300 years ago this week; but it certainly did not produce a more amusing or adventurous character.

In his search for subjects to write about, he covered thousands of miles in England and on the Continent; and all this at a time when travel was so difficult that few people ever ventured more than a few miles from their homes.

### Farm apprentice



Graham Stride is serving a three-year apprenticeship under a scheme started by the National Farmers' Union. Here he is seen helping Mr. S. J. Beresford to erect wire fencing on his farm at Chilmark, Salisbury.

### CHAMPION STUFF

If variety is the spice of life, it is also the right seasoning for an Annual. This is proved in The Champion Annual for Boys, 1954 (7s.); for originality is the theme of this breezy collection of sporting yarns.

As well as the more familiar sports, the Annual includes stories of such innovations as a canoe tug-o-war, Rugby football on horseback, cycle-racing on a switch-back, and other novel contests.

Here is one reliable answer to the what-shall-we-give-him problem when the receiving end of it is a boy who is keen on games.

Another book guaranteed to delight all boys is Lion Annual, 1954 (7s.). It deals with adventure and curious happenings on a wide scale, and is quite likely to appeal to receiver's sisters as well.

### CLEARING THE SNOW

Local authorities in Yorkshire have been shown a film of an American rotary snowplough mounted on a tractor.

Used in the country, the machine's adjustable chute throws the snow over hedges instead of just pushing it to the roadside as in the usual snowplough. In towns the rotary snowplough uses the chute to drop the snow into lorries, filling a five-ton truck in five minutes.

### SAFER AT WORK

A survey carried out among employees of one of America's biggest engineering firms has shown that it is safer at work than at home.

Accidents at work averaged four victims a year out of each 1000 employees. Personal accidents out of working hours, causing temporary disablement, affected 22 of every 1000 workers.

Some of John Taylor's strangest journeys were undertaken to win wagers. Once he set out with a friend on a trip down the Thames from London to Queenborough in a boat made of brown paper, with two fish tied to canes as oars.

The bottom fell out of the boat before they had gone far, but somehow the two men managed to reach their destination.

On another occasion, Taylor wagered that he would walk from London to Edinburgh without money and without begging or borrowing on the way. He took a pack-horse loaded with provisions, and actually completed his journey within a month.

### THAMES WATERMAN

John Taylor called himself the Water Poet because for many years he earned his living as a Thames waterman. He was not a Londoner—he was born at Gloucester in 1580—but he lived much of his life in the capital.

He was apprenticed to a Thames waterman after leaving the Grammar School at Gloucester, before being pressed into the Navy.

He served under the Earl of Essex at the attack on Cadiz in 1596, but his service in Queen Elizabeth's Navy was cut short by a severe leg wound. Then he returned to earn a scanty living on the Thames.

Better educated than most of his companions, he became something of a leader among the watermen, and he organised several successful pageants on the river for King James I and the Lord Mayor.

He started writing in about 1612, and altogether he turned out more than 150 pamphlets. He could write quickly and humorously in prose or verse on almost any subject, but his best works were undoubtedly the accounts of his eccentric journeys.

He was not a good poet, but his work has been extremely valuable to historians because of his interesting descriptions of places and events.

### INN AT OXFORD

When the Civil War broke out, Taylor, who was an ardent Royalist, followed the Court to Oxford. He kept an inn there, and devoted his spare time to writing semi-humorous attacks on the King's enemies.

After the war he returned to London. He kept a tavern off Long Acre, and adorned his sign with his portrait and a sample of his verse:

*There's many a head stands for a sign,  
Then, gentle reader, why not mine?*

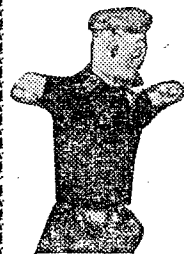
There as an innkeeper this eccentric character lived for the rest of his days. He was buried in the nearby churchyard of St. Martin-in-the-Fields on December 5, 1653.

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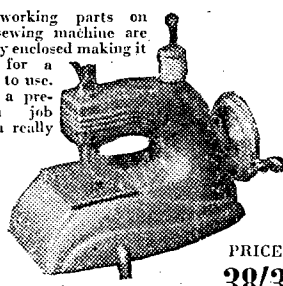
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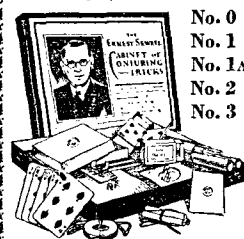
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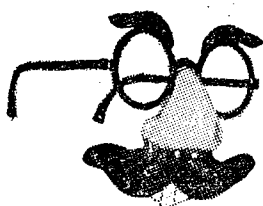
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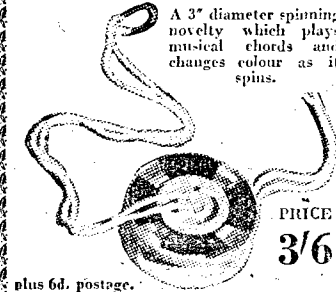
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## THINK OF A STORY...

Writers of film scripts set many pretty problems for producers and directors.

Thus the creators of the story of Road to Bali thought it would be good fun to have Bob Hope fighting a giant squid underwater. But they did not suggest how this merriment was to be staged, and it took the technicians three weeks to work it out.

Another writer insisted on having stampeding elephants for a new Paramount film, Elephant Walk. But he did not suggest how the elephants were to be taught not to tread on the actors or the cameras. For this picture a unit was sent to Ceylon and later had ten circus elephants brought from Chicago to Hollywood.

A taller order was the thrilling idea of 20 billion soldier ants devouring half a jungle. But the technicians managed to make even this look real.

No wonder the studio folk think the script-writer's task an easy one.

## MORE FISH FOR CHILE

Chile, the South American Republic with 2600 miles of coastline, is learning to make better use of the rich stores of fish in the Pacific Ocean.

Fish contains the protein which is absent from the average Chilean meal, and so efforts to popularise it are being made by the Government, assisted by experts of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (F.A.O.).

Children at school are learning songs in praise of fish, and are also adorning the walls of their classroom with paintings and drawings of fishing subjects.

Parents who have not been influenced in the matter by their children may be won over by prize-winning fish recipes printed on the back of theatre and concert programmes.

By such means the Government of Chile hope to raise the people's food standards.

## OIL ACROSS THE ROCKIES

Crude oil from the new Canadian oil field in Alberta is now flowing by pipeline over the mighty Rocky Mountains to a refinery near Vancouver.

The pipeline, which is 700 miles long, is at present carrying 75,000 barrels daily, but eventually it is hoped that 200,000 barrels a day will be transported.

This development means that British Columbia will no longer be dependent on imports from California. In fact, it is expected that before long Canada will begin to export oil.

## TIMEPIECE

Among the British clocks and watches now on show at the Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry is the first electric clock, made about a century ago by the Electric Telegraph Company.

Another interesting exhibit is the chronometer used by Captain Bligh on the Bounty and taken to Pitcairn by the mutineers.

## MICHAEL TO THE RESCUE

Ten-year-old Michael Tucknott has not lived very long in Wakefield—he came with his family from near Brighton only a few months ago—but he has already made his mark in the district.

Returning from school the other day two girls called out that a boy had fallen into the swift-running Alverthorpe beck, and was lying in the water partially stunned.

Michael, who is a member of the 10th Wakefield Wolf Cub troop, rescued the boy, then carried him home. Michael has now received a presentation from the Mayor.

## Crocodile ahoy!



Despite the presence of such fearsome-looking crocodiles, Able-Seaman Patrick Spendlove of Derby is not worried, for the creatures are stuffed. They are souvenirs of his ship's 12 months' service overseas.

## SCHOOL POULTRY FARMERS

At Barlby County School, near Selby, Yorks, the pupils are learning much about poultry husbandry—and gaining financially.

From a modest beginning in 1951, when a dozen sitting eggs were hatched, the "farm" has grown to 366 pullets, three hen houses, a 100-chick brooder, a six-cage hen battery, and infra-red lamps.

Originally, sixpenny shares were sold to children and the staff. By the Spring of 1952 all shareholders had been repaid, plus 2d. interest on each share. The concern was then taken over by the school.

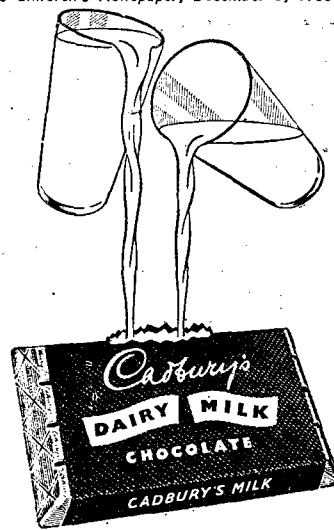
## LAST HUMBER KEEL

The Humber keel Mayday, the last direct descendant of the longships in which marauding Vikings sailed up the Humber 1500 years ago, is to be preserved.

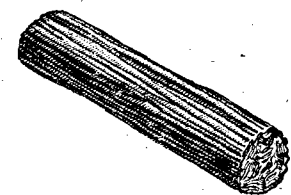
Made at Thorne near Doncaster in 1885, the Mayday is now at Hull, dismantled and generally in bad repair. The Humber Keel Trust has launched an appeal so that it may be restored and equipped to carry cargo to pay for its preservation.

## PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

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# DANGER MOUNTAIN

by Patrick Pringle

Jack and Robin Hilton are with their parents in Switzerland and go skiing with a Swiss girl, Junge, whose father, Rudi, is a ski instructor. At their hotel a man they call Husky puts an attaché case in the room of a Dr. Marcus, but another man steals it. The boys go up Danger Mountain with Junge, and they hear the sound of a dynamo coming from a chalet in a wood. Jack investigates and sees a printing press—and then a man behind him asks what he is doing there?

## 14. Captured!

It was an English voice, with an accent that only a native of London could have used. Jack sprang up, turned his head and shoulders without moving his skis, and saw a man with red hair and cold blue eyes. Then he swung his right-hand ski stick round with all his force, striking the man on the shins.

As the man yelped with the pain, Jack pushed off.

"Pierre! Fritz!" shouted the man with the red hair. "Come out, quick!"

Jack turned the corner of the chalet, saw the door open, and flashed past just in time. He slewed round another corner, got on to the clear snow by the side of the river, and looked quickly over his shoulder. Three men running after him.

Then he saw Robin coming out from the trees in front.

"Get back!" he shouted. "Hide!"

His brother obeyed, and Jack made the best speed he could along the narrow lane between the trees. Then he caught one of his skis in a hidden root and fell heavily. He struggled to his feet.

Then a heavy weight on his back knocked him down, as Husky jumped on him from behind. The weight of the man was overpowering, and Jack resisted only feebly when he felt strong hands gripping his arms.

## Robin joins in

The grip was released suddenly as Husky let out a scream of pain. The next moment the weight was off Jack, and he was free. He did not try to rise properly, but went forward, still crouching, pushing his sticks with short, quick jabs.

He reached the edge of the wood and looked back. He saw Husky on his knees, his head thrown back at an unusual angle—and Robin behind him, tugging at his hair! The other two men were advancing on Robin, while Husky was clawing with his hands in an attempt to get hold of the younger boy.

"Let go of him, Robin!" Jack shouted, and turned back.

Husky had succeeded in grasping Robin, and the redhead, who had gone ahead of the other man, ran past Husky and Robin and bore down on Jack.

Jack did not resist. The fight was over.

"Are you all right, Robin?" he asked, as Husky let go of the younger boy.

"Yes. Why didn't you get away?"

The man with red hair took charge.

"Fritz, bring the big 'un," he told Husky. "Get your skis off and carry them up," he ordered Jack. "Pierre," he said to the other man, "you bring the kid." Then he went ahead.

Husky, or Fritz, made Jack go first, while Pierre followed with Robin. The red-headed man was standing at the doorway when they reached the chalet.

"Bring 'em in," he ordered.

They were taken into the room that Jack had seen through the crack in the outside wall. The room was lighted only by oil-lamps, and the only heating was from a large oil-stove in the middle.

From hurried conversation between the men the boys learned that the red-haired man's name was Harry. He turned to Jack. "How did you get 'ere?" he asked.

"We got caught in the blizzard and sheltered in the wood. Then we saw this house."

"You and who else?"

"No one."

"Where are your skis?" said Harry, suddenly turning on Robin.

"I broke them," answered

Robin, after barely a second's hesitation.

"Where?"

"Just before we got to the wood."

"Then where are the bits?"

"We left them there," Jack put in. "They were no good to us. They're probably covered by snow now."

"Now look," said Harry. "We're not mugs. And we know a good bit more about you than you think. We know you've been going around playin' at detectives and puttin' your noses in things that don't concern you. That don't matter much. What I want to know is who was with you and where they are now. Was it Rudi's girl?"

"No!" said Robin, much too emphatically.

"I thought so," said Harry. "Now, we're gettin' somewhere. Where did she go when she left you?"

"I don't know what you're talking about," said Jack.

"Nor do I," added Robin.

## Jack talks

Harry picked up one of Jack's ski sticks and made an imaginary stroke with it through the air. "You cracked me on the shins with this, didn't you? I can tell you that hurts. Like to try it?"

Jack remained silent.

"Fritz," Harry said to Husky. "The nipper pulled your 'air, didn't 'e?" Husky growled angrily, and his eyes glittered. "I expect that 'urt, too. Maybe you'd like to give 'im back some of 'is own medicine."

"All right," said Jack, who had been thinking rapidly. "I'll talk."

"Then talk fast. Where's Rudi's kid gone?"

"To get Rudi. My brother did break a ski. She took that and the other one with her, to get another pair to fit."

"How long ago?"

"When the storm stopped."

"Did she see this place?"

"No. We were on the edge of the wood. I explored after she'd gone."

"Where would she get Rudi, then?"

"He was coming up in the chair-lift after lunch. With the ski school."

Harry stared at Jack for a moment.

"Is this all true?" he asked Robin.

"Yes."

"I'm sorry for you both if it isn't." He turned to Husky. "Fritz, get your skis on and go and 'ead Rudi off. Pierre, get the sledge ready in case we 'ave to leave in a hurry."

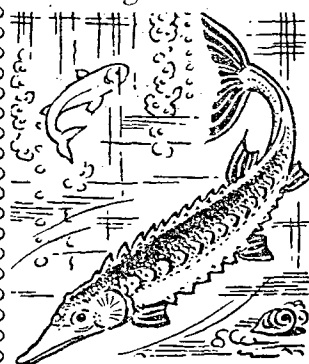
Pierre went out at once, but Husky did not move.

"I do not understand," he said.

Harry made a gesture of impatience.

Continued on page 14

## It's strange but true...



... that Caviare, which is regarded as a delicacy in many parts of the world, is simply the roe of the sturgeon, a solid mass of tiny eggs, salted, vinegared, and preserved.

The sturgeon is excellent food, and the air bladder is used to make isinglass, a substance which clarifies liquors.

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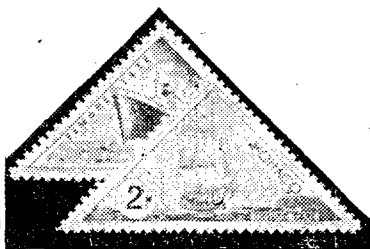




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# SPORTS SHORTS

NEWCASTLE and England centre-forward Jackie Milburn is probably the only footballer who has ever had a flower named after him. The flower is a pink and gold orchid.

GEOFFREY DAKIN, a 17-year-old schoolboy of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, gave the New Zealand cricket touring team a shock when in one match he took four of their second innings wickets for 28 runs. At one stage his figures were four for 16.

BRIAN TAYLOR, deputy to Paul Gibb as the Essex wicket-keeper, is an all-round sportsman. Not only does he keep fit for cricket during the winter by playing at full back for Deal Town, but he is a first-class table tennis player with the Fellows Cranleigh club, in the East End of London.

TOTTENHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S sports field is only a stone's throw from the famous home of the Tottenham Hotspur F.C., but the schoolboys are making a big name for themselves at Rugger, with six teams for boys aged from 12 to 19.

JOHN FITTON, 18-year-old son of Arthur Fitton, former Preston North End winger and now trainer of West Bromwich Albion, has recently signed for his father's present club.

THE All Blacks oppose Swansea on Saturday and a week later the tourists will be at Cardiff to contest the first international of the 1953-54 programme, against Wales. The All Blacks will be all out to win, for when the men from New Zealand were last in Britain (1935-36), they were beaten by Swansea—and again by Wales. Wales is not a happy hunting ground for the All Blacks—this year's team lost their first match of the tour at Cardiff, and the only match lost by the original All Blacks in 1905 was against Wales.

## DANGER MOUNTAIN

Continued from page 13

"The girl's gone to the chair-lift to get Rudi," he said. "You've got to go out and meet 'im. Tell 'im you've seen the kids, and show 'im where. Take him as far away from 'ere as you can. To a precipice, or something."

Husky picked up a pair of skis. "What are you going to do with the boys?"

"Keep 'em 'ere till the Chief arrives. That'll be 'is 'eadache."

Husky went out, and a moment later Pierre came back.

"The sledge is ready," he said. "Fritz 'as gone?"

Harry nodded.

"Now we'd better set the alarms again, in case someone else comes snoopin' round," he said.

Pierre went outside, while Harry walked over to a corner and pulled a switch. He waited until a buzzer sounded—the same noise Jack had heard when he was outside the chalet just before he was caught.

"All right," shouted Harry.

## ONE of the quickest-for-distance

Soccer-tours on record will shortly be taken by 17 players of Pegasus, the Amateur Cup holders. They will leave by air on December 27 for Hong Kong, and will return just 14 days later. They will play three matches in the Far East.

ALTHOUGH he is only 16, Donald Overnell of Enfield Grammar School recently broke the Middlesex Senior swimming record for the 440 yards free style. His time of 5 minutes 18.6 seconds beat the existing record by 10 seconds.



The would-be golfer is Dwight David Eisenhower, who is proud to have the same names as his grandfather, the President of the United States.

GEORGE HEADLEY, once known as the Black Bradman, is going back to the West Indies to play against the M.C.C. tourists during their winter tour. Headley, who is 44, has not played for the West Indies since 1949, for he has been professional to Dudley, the Birmingham League club, for the past three years. In 21 previous Test matches he scored well over 2000 runs.

Then, when Pierre came back, "Start the dynamo, will you? We've got to get the stuff ready for the Paris run—it may be our last from here."

Pierre took a hand-lamp and went into another room. This was the part of the chalet that Jack had tried to look into first.

They heard the familiar hum again, and the lights went on. Two electric fires started to glow, and Harry turned out the oil-stove.

"Where do we put the boys?" asked Pierre when he came back.

"In there, till the Chief comes. Come on," Harry said to Jack and Robin. "You're going to meet an old friend of yours."

They went into the room where the dynamo was housed. It was not illuminated, but a shaft of light from the other door revealed the figure of a man lying on the floor. Harry opened the door wider, and they saw the man's face. He had deep-set eyes, a long nose, and a birthmark on his right cheek.

"Otto!" cried the boys.

To be continued

The Children's Newspaper, December 5, 1953

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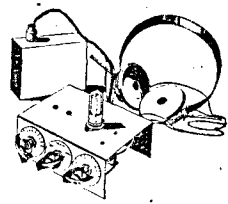
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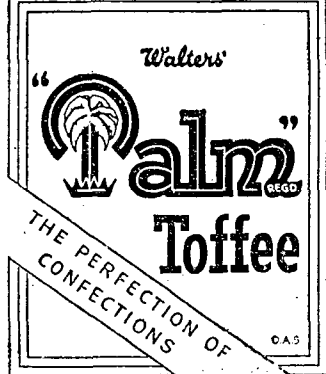
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## HEAVENLY TWINS NOW VISIBLE

By the CN Astronomer

CASTOR and Pollux may now be seen in the heavens not far from Jupiter, the grand planet which is the brightest object in the south-east night sky.

The "Twins" are the bright first-magnitude stars to be seen to the left of Jupiter, Castor being above Pollux as shown in the star-map in the next column.

The story of Castor and Pollux is a very ancient one, going back

some 8000 years to the time when these two stars are believed to have symbolised night and day—one twin dying as the other came to life. In later classical times Castor and Pollux became known by their present names, and were represented as the sons of Jupiter, their mother being regarded as Leda, whom Jupiter had transformed into a swan.

Subsequently they became the famous heroes who were supposed to have accompanied the Greek expedition to find the Golden Fleece. Then they were usually represented on horseback.

This approach of Jupiter to Castor and Pollux happens only once in 12 to 13 years. In the interval it travels in its orbit round the heavens, just now being at the most northerly part of the orbit.



Position of the Twins

### THEIR OWN PANTO

Because their parents felt "a bit out of it," a children's pantomime company at Reading have allowed them to take part as dancers.

The company consists of youngsters between four and eleven, all living in the same street. They are now busy rehearsing a Christmas show called Sing a Song of Sixpence, which has been written by their producer, 17-year-old Terry Daum.

Already the panto has several bookings to perform at hospitals, Old Age Pensioners' socials, and children's parties.

Good luck to Terry's Cranborne Juveniles—their official name—and to Sing a Song of Sixpence.

### AIRBORNE HAGGIS

What is believed to be the biggest haggis ever made is to be flown to New York in January for display and for use in a TV programme. It weighs between 40 and 50 lbs.

In addition to sending over this outsize haggis, the Scottish Tourist Board will send to Boston and Chicago supplies of haggis for banquets held by Scottish organisations in these cities. In response to another appeal, the Board will also send old-fashioned golf balls and clubs to America for a TV programme. A well-known golfer will demonstrate how the old clubs were used.

### MEDICAL SCHOOLS

The World Health Organisation has printed what is claimed to be the first World Directory of Medical Schools.

Published at Geneva in English and French, it reveals that the United States has the largest number of medical schools—79. Russia has 61, then follow Japan, India, and Britain (which has 27).

In the New World the first country to have a medical school was Mexico, where the Spaniards established one in 1578.

### PRIZEWINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS to the ten successful entrants in CN Competition No. 39, who each receive a £1 note for sending the neatest correct list of 25 C-objects in the picture. They are: Vera Bassett, Brough; Michael Beatham, Ilkley; D. M. Byatt, Chelmsford; Julia Clay, Mansfield; Richard Essam, Northampton; Alison Floyd, Southall; E. Kench, Carshalton; Margaret Morton, Work-sop; Brian Ogle, Goole; Jean Pechey, Norwich.

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## THE BRAN TUB

### SEEING IS BELIEVING

"EAT your carrots, Audrey, they're good for your eye-sight."

"How do you know, Mother?"

"Well, have you ever seen a donkey wearing glasses?"

### The right spirit

LAUGHED an aged bird-watcher from Berne:

"Though I can't tell a crow from a tern

I am not downhearted,

I've only just started,

And nobody's too old to learn."

### FAMILIAR TREES

THE beautiful spruce fir is best known as the Christmas tree. In this country it grows from 80 to 100 feet high; in Scandinavian regions it grows as high as 170 feet.



The grey-brown bark which covers the bole is inclined to flake. Its bright green needles are from half to three-quarters of an inch long, four sided and terminating in sharp points. They cover the twigs, forming a dense cloak. The cones are long and they hang downwards.

Spruce timber is of great value, and specially noted for its endurance. The erect, slender trunks are used to make ladders, planks, and masts for small ships.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### The gnome's toy shop

AS I passed the hollow oak, I heard a tapping noise. And glancing up I saw a gnome with lots of tiny toys. I watched in breathless wonder as a small door opened wide—

The gnome collected everything and disappeared inside. Dad thinks I saw a squirrel and just treats it as a joke. He says I heard woodpeckers, tap-tap-tap-ing on the oak. But Mummy says he's teasing us, and she believes like me. That gnomes are making lovely toys for my own Christmas tree.

### CAN I HELP?



The cat pet of C N reader John Went of Brightlingsea in Essex, seems to have a thirst for knowledge, for it always sits by his shoulder while he is writing.

## MIXED GRILL

THERE was a young fellow named Sam  
Who'd a passion for strawberry jam.  
It became such a habit  
That he ate it with rabbit  
And beetroot and kippers and ham.

### Flower legends

FROM Greek mythology comes the legend of the violet. The god Jupiter was very friendly with Io, a priestess, of whom Jupiter's wife was jealous.

One day Jupiter and Io were strolling in the meadows when the god saw his wife approaching. Not wishing to be seen with Io, he transformed her into a milk-white heifer.

Io then lowered her head to crop the grass but she raised her eyes as if in reproach; grass was scarcely fitting food for a young priestess. Instantly, Jupiter caused a carpet of sweet-scented, fragile flowers to appear—the exquisite little violets.

### Fit the caps

IN the following lines eight words are defined, each of which begins with CAP. How many can you fit?

Chief city of all;  
To upset and then fall;  
The chief of the band;  
A rocky headland;  
Something found on a ship;  
One who ne'er makes a slip;  
A seed vessel found in a flower;  
The prisoner kept in a tower.

Answer next week

## WHOSE NAME

The following verse suggests a Christian name.

It may be yours; can you spot it?

A NURSE whose courage and devotion  
Earned undying fame;  
Her birthplace was in Italy,  
And that will give her name.

Florence (Florence Nightingale), born in Florence 1820

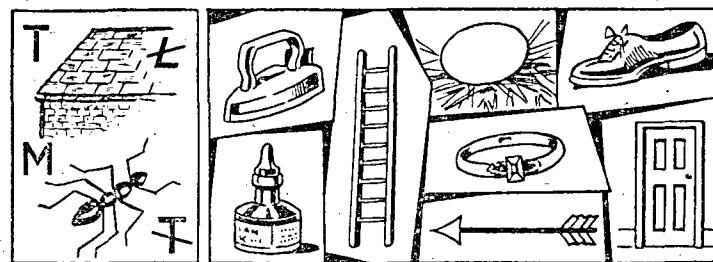
### 3D Puzzle

Can you complete each of the following sentences by filling in a word beginning with D?

THE name of a group of prehistoric reptiles is —. Some were vegetarians, and — their huge size they were comparatively harmless. Others were — flesh-eating monsters.

Possible answers: Dinosaurs, dinosaurs, dinosaurs

CAN YOU TELL FROM THE CLUES WHAT PROFESSION... is given in the first picture? The name of a person famous in the profession is formed by the initials of the other objects. Answer next week



### Hit the nail on the head

IN days gone by, when archery contests were a great feature of country life, the blank inner circle of the target was often marked with a brass nail. Thus, a competitor close enough to aim at "point blank" range was almost certain to "hit the nail on the head."

If he missed he became the "butt" or target for shafts of ridicule, especially if he had boasted of his prowess by "drawing the long bow!"

### Irish

A MOTHER called to her son: "Come here ye young rascal, and put your cap on. Sure if ye hadn't got one ye'd always be wearin' it."

### JUMBLE QUIZ

To find the answer to each clue rearrange the anagrams in brackets. Each solution begins with the letter B.

1. Biggest city of Maryland, U.S.A., a leading port although about 200 miles from the Atlantic. (BLAME TRIO)

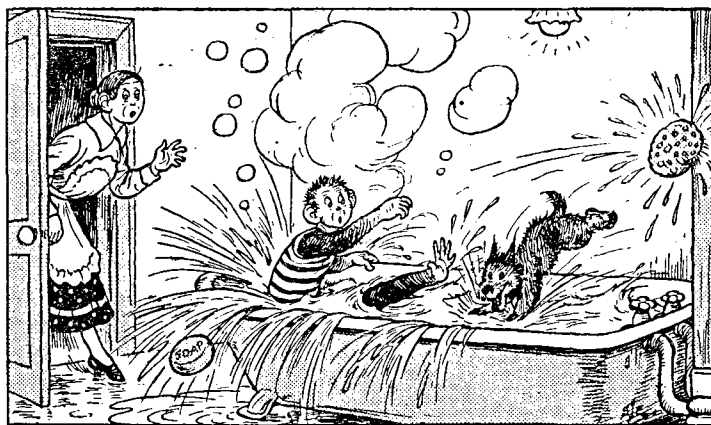
2. German composer of Belgian descent; conducted an opera orchestra at 14; became deaf in later years. (OH, VET BEEN)

3. City of South France which gave its name to a weapon used by the infantry in most armies. (ANY BONE)

4. Spain's chief port and manufacturing town; has had a troubled history from the time of its foundation by Hamilcar Barca, the Carthaginian, in the third century to its capture by Franco in 1939. (CABLE NORA)

Answer next week

## SPLASHING TIME FOR JACKO AND BOUNCER



Jacko had been sent to have a bath, and he had not been long in the soapy water when Bouncer arrived, equally dirty. He took a flying leap, just avoiding a sponge aimed by Jacko, and landed in the bath with a tremendous splash. They seemed all set for a watery frolic, when mother appeared. Bouncer was promptly put outside, and Jacko was left to wipe up the water.

### Look before you leap

THE Paratroop recruit was about to make his first leap from an aircraft when the N.C.O. in charge cried:

"That man! Stop! You're not wearing your parachute!"

"That's all right, corp," returned the recruit, "we're only practising, aren't we?"

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Can you... The stolen gems are below a stone near the gate at the birch wood

Find another

Beaver

Jumble quiz

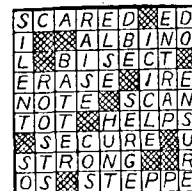
Arundel, Addison, Archimedes, Argentin

the

Fill it in

Decide, insulin, res

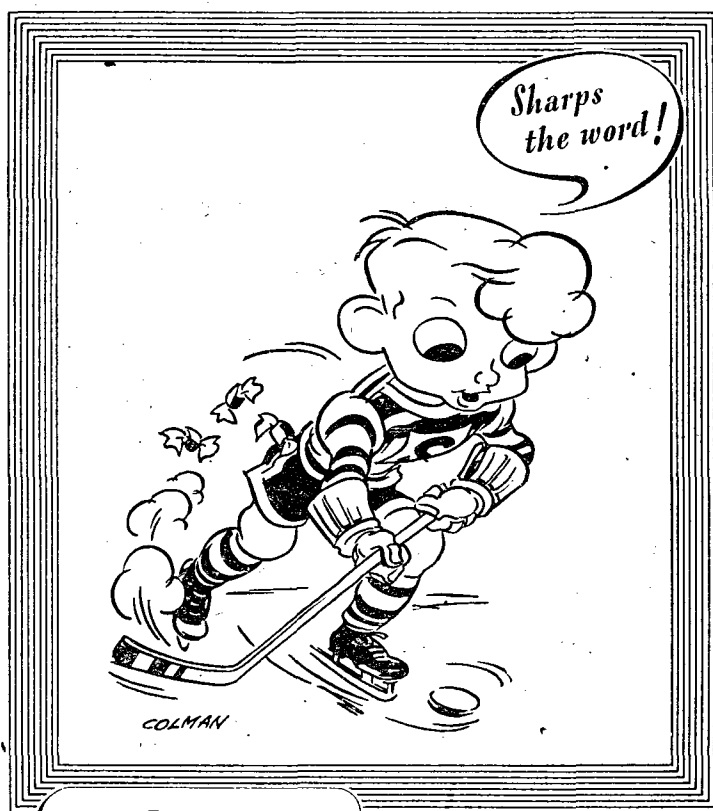
pire, verve, orator, eraser.



### Footwork

"WHAT sort of leather makes the best shoes?" asked Tom.

"I don't know," replied Jim, "but bananas make very good slippers."



Sharps

the word for Toffee

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